

Chattanooga September 2021 Hybrid Hearing Protocol

In light of recent numbers of cases and hospitalizations due to a surge in the COVID 19 virus, Judge Rucker will be relaxing her requirements for attendance at hearings on the motion dockets set for September 2, 9, 16, and 23. Since resuming “in person” hearings on July 12, 2021, parties who have had conflicts in other courts; concerns about the health of themselves, their clients or witnesses; or are unable to attend due to being in COVID -19 quarantine have been allowed to continue using telephonic hearings if they file a motion showing cause which is granted. Those telephonic hearings have been conducted at the end of the in-person hearings.

In the past week, requests have increased and in order to facilitate the operations of the court during this time, the court will conduct its motion dockets in person and/or by phone if a party requests to appear by phone.

For the motion dockets set on September 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2021, any attorney, debtor, creditor or party in interest may attend by telephone if a request is made to the courtroom deputy, Ms. Tanya English, by phone at (423) 779-1240 or by email at tanya_english@tneb.uscourts.gov on or before 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, prior to the hearing. Permission will be granted without the necessity of filing of a motion or showing additional cause for these four weeks. The court finds that the risks associated with attendance given the current number of hospitalizations in the surrounding area including Hamilton County, Tennessee, is sufficient cause at this time.

Ms. English will open the phone line approximately 10 minutes before court. Parties should use the AT+T call in number (877) 336-1829, Access Code 4289323. All parties not involved in a hearing should have their phone on mute until their case is called. Judge Rucker will continue to

hold court in the courtroom and you should plan on attending in person unless you have timely requested to appear by phone. Your case or matter may be dismissed if you fail to appear.

Parties may offer live testimony over the phone only with the consent of opposing counsel. Matters requiring live testimony will be set for a special evidentiary hearing if there is no consent.

If no party timely requests to participate by phone, the court will not open the phone line.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shelley D. Rucker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Shelley D. Rucker
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge